

He has traveled the world. He has gotten countries to move a lot further than I think any of us thought was possible. I want to congratulate our former colleague for the work he has done on the climate issues. I want to also acknowledge Assistant Secretary Monica Medina, who worked tirelessly during COP27 in order to get results.

We are certainly not satisfied with everything that happened at COP27. Let me make that clear. There were disappointments. We would like to have seen an increase in the emissions targets, much more than have been made. We have to do better. They only made modest progress on mitigation. But important progress was made in forest protection. So we did make progress, and we brought the international community together in order to recognize that this is a global problem.

I am so proud that the U.S. leadership is back on the international scene, leading the international community to do what we need to do to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and avert the most severe consequences of climate change.

With that, I would yield the floor.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Robert Phillip Storch, of the District of Columbia, to be Inspector General, Department of Defense.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes for debate, equally divided.

Mr. CARDIN. I yield back our time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### VOTE ON STORCH NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Storch nomination?

Mr. CARDIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The result was announced—yeas 92, nays 3, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 367 Ex.]

#### YEAS—92

Baldwin	Blunt	Cantwell
Barrasso	Booker	Capito
Bennet	Boozman	Cardin
Blackburn	Brown	Carper
Blumenthal	Burr	Casey

Cassidy	Kennedy	Rosen
Collins	King	Rounds
Coons	Klobuchar	Rubio
Cornyn	Lankford	Sanders
Cortez Masto	Leahy	Schatz
Cramer	Lee	Schumer
Crapo	Lujan	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Lummis	Scott (SC)
Daines	Manchin	Shaheen
Duckworth	Markey	Shelby
Durbin	Marshall	Sinema
Ernst	McConnell	Smith
Feinstein	Menendez	Stabenow
Fischer	Merkley	Sullivan
Gillibrand	Moran	Tester
Graham	Murkowski	Thune
Grassley	Murphy	Tillis
Hassan	Murray	Tuberville
Heinrich	Ossoff	Van Hollen
Hickenlooper	Padilla	Warner
Hirono	Paul	Warren
Hooven	Peters	Whitehouse
Inhofe	Portman	Wicker
Johnson	Reed	Wyden
Kaine	Risch	Young
Kelly	Romney	

#### NAYS—3

Braun	Cotton	Hawley
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#### NOT VOTING—5

Hagerty	Sasse	Warnock
Hyde-Smith	Toomey	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be notified immediately of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Virginia.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, I rise to offer a unanimous consent request for the approval of two important nominees to ambassadorial positions that have passed through the Foreign Relations Committee, and the first that I want to offer deals with seeking to advance the nomination of William H. Duncan for the U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador.

I appreciate that my colleagues—two colleagues from the Republican side—are here on the floor to respond to these requests.

Mr. Duncan is a 30-year veteran of the career Foreign Service. He has experience serving throughout the Western Hemisphere region: El Salvador; Monterrey, Mexico; Mexico City; Asuncion; Madrid; Bogota; and Matamoros. He has also served domestically in the Offices of Andean Affairs, Mexican Affairs, and Central American Affairs. He has had a tour in Baghdad and in the State Department Operations Center.

I say this not to bore everybody with a long recitation, but because Mr. Duncan has had a pretty incredible career. And it is near impossible to imagine a career more fit to purpose and a nominee better suited to serve an enormous and unique challenge that the United States faces today in El Salvador.

The United States faces a very tough question in El Salvador right now, and that is the current President of El Salvador, President Bukele. He is locally very, very popular, but he has utilized his popularity for malfeasance. He has exploited weak local institutions to begin to undermine civilian society and build up a security state. He has

imprisoned around 50,000 of his own citizens since just March of this year and curtailed the civil right of the remainder.

Members of Bukele's party have openly meddled directly in U.S. legislative elections.

Experts increasingly doubt the country's ability to pay nearly \$800 million in Eurobond payments that it owes coming up in February. A default could spur a fresh round of migration northward from El Salvador to Mexico and the United States.

My friends across the aisle frequently—and, I think, appropriately—cite migration as a top foreign policy challenge, and they have got a point. The size and scope of this crisis, compounded by El Salvador and President Bukele's actions, and the humanitarian impact on the entire region and our country are worsening by the day. I agree that the issue needs much, much more attention, and El Salvador is right on the frontline of this crisis.

I lived in Honduras, very near the Salvadoran border in 1980 and 1981. It was a challenge then. It is a challenge now. No country can, on its own, confront the myriad of challenges facing El Salvador today, transnational organized crime being one of them.

So we have to work together to strengthen the rule of law in El Salvador. That is essential if we are going to discourage irregular migration. Without the rule of law, El Salvador will never have the economic growth that it needs nor will it be able to prevent human rights abuses and attacks on civil liberties, reduce gender-based violence, or defeat the threat from criminal gangs, all drivers of irregular migration.

Addressing these drivers and other serious U.S. policy concerns requires engagement at the highest level by experienced, incredible interlocutors, such as Mr. Duncan. We urgently need a Senate-confirmed Ambassador to engage President Bukele in El Salvador and civil society, including the courageous human rights activists, on these issues.

As Mr. Duncan noted in his testimony in front of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the relationship between the United States and El Salvador has been exceptionally close for more than 40 years, despite many, many challenging issues. Through a horrific civil war, a fraught peace process, and into today's challenges, such as fighting transnational organized crime, the United States has worked cooperatively with El Salvador in everything we can and disagreed firmly and constructively when we needed to.

It is worth noting that over these years, many Salvadorans have become our fellow citizens, including right here in the DMV, through processes such as TPS status. Two and a half million Salvadorans live in the United States. They proudly contribute to our national fabric through their creativity and work ethic and to El Salvador